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FEATURES

Have a party with the Library of Things!

RACHEL WHITEHOUSE | CORRESPONDENT

August 12, 2024 . 6:00 AM — 2 min read

Check out your items from the Library of Things at the circulation desk in the main lobby. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTO/RACHEL WHITEHOUSE

Did you know the Winchester Public Library offers more than just books? They've got an entire collection of non-traditional items available

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borrowing, known as the Library of Things (LoT). Instead of buying something you might only need once, why not borrow it from the library?

Planning a beach day? Skip the store and borrow a metal detector and beach tent from the library. Got a home improvement project? Check out the wall scanner and laser level kits. Want to try a new recipe? The InstaPot kit is just a click away.

And for your next party, be sure to check out the "most fun" item in the LoT: the Party in a Box.

"It comes with sound-activated disco lights and a light-up Bluetooth boombox," says Head of Library Technology & Information Services Craig Smith, who curates and maintains the LoT. "I'd have fit in a folding dance floor if we had the space. The karaoke machine is a close second."

The library started the LoT in 2020 to help patrons explore household items and technology without spending money. The concept of lending non-traditional items has been trending in libraries for years.

"It started with lendable equipment like cassettes, VHS tapes, and record players in the 70s and 80s," explains Smith. "The Berkeley Public Library has had a tool library for many years — they were pioneers in lending items and equipment."

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Borrowing from the LoT is not just convenient, it's also great for the environment. The LoT helps to cut down on the production and disposal of seldom-used items, contributing to a more sustainable community.

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"It's a fantastic way to reduce waste and clutter," says Christine A assistant director at the library. "Instead of buying a tool you might use just

once or twice, you can borrow one and then return it."

Only Winchester residents can reserve items, but other Minuteman Library patrons can borrow items in person if available. LoT items must be picked up and returned at the Winchester Circulation desk, and there's no charge to borrow them. However, full replacement costs will be charged for unreturned items.

Want to snag the most popular items? Act fast!

"Our hotspots and Nintendo Switches are almost never on the shelves!" says Amatrudo.

Explore the Library of Things here.

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‘Chicago: Teen Edition’ dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

March 4, 2026

Celebrating Black history and culture with art, reflection, and community

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: The Winchester community came together last week at the Griffin Museum of Photography for the inaugural Black History and Culture Celebration, an evening filled with music, student creativity, and powerful messages about equity, unity, and the enduring legacy of Black

March 3, 2026

FEATURES

Winchester residents share more snow photos

Well, Winchester, we made it through the weekend with only a coating of snow that amounted to nothing on Sunday afternoon. But during the Feb. 22-23 blizzard, Winchester News once again asked residents to send their snow photos. And here is what we received! Solmaz Amirnazmi said her daughters and

NELL ESCOBAR COAKLEY | STAFF WRITER

March 2, 2026

FEATURES

Winchester Community Music School set to expand, upgrade

The big events in Winchester Community Music School always take place in Nichols Performance Hall. With the school and its performances’ growing in popularity, the hall and many of its amenities are due for an upgrade. The performance hall is one of the main areas that the school seeks to

TAVISHI CHATTOPADHYAY | CORRESPONDENT

February 26, 2026

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Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

March 4, 2026

NEWS

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

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'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

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Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: Y… Welcome Here'

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By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
March 4, 2026

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

March 4, 2026

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